

California Statutes Pertaining to Automated External Defibrillators

Updated July 11, 2013

Health and Safety Code Division 2.5

I. Section 1797.190.

The authority may establish minimum standards for the training and use of automatic external defibrillators.

II. Section 1797.196.

(a) For purposes of this section, "AED" or "defibrillator" means an automated or automatic external defibrillator.

(b) In order to ensure public safety, any person or entity that acquires an AED is not liable for any civil damages resulting from any acts or omissions in the rendering of the emergency care under subdivision (b) of Section 1714.21 of the Civil Code, if that person or entity does all of the following:

(1) Complies with all regulations governing the placement of an AED.

(2) Ensures all of the following:

(A) That the AED is maintained and regularly tested according to the operation and maintenance guidelines set forth by the manufacturer, the American Heart Association, and the American Red Cross, and according to any applicable rules and regulations set forth by the governmental authority under the federal Food and Drug Administration and any other applicable state and federal authority.

(B) That the AED is checked for readiness after each use and at least once every 30 days if the AED has not been used in the preceding 30 days. Records of these checks shall be maintained.

(C) That any person who renders emergency care or treatment on a person in cardiac arrest by using an AED activates the emergency medical services system as soon as possible, and reports any use of the AED to the licensed physician and to the local EMS agency.

(D) For every AED unit acquired up to five units, no less than one employee per AED unit shall complete a training course in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and AED use that complies with the regulations adopted by the Emergency Medical Service Authority and the standards of the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross. After the first five AED units are acquired, for each additional five AED units acquired, one employee shall be trained beginning with the first AED unit acquired. Acquirers of AED units shall have trained employees who should be available to respond to an emergency that may involve the use of an AED unit during normal operating hours.

(E) That there is a written plan that describes the procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency that may involve the use of an AED, to ensure compliance with the requirements of this section. The written plan shall include, but not be limited to, immediate notification of 911 and trained office personnel at the start of AED procedures.

(3) When an AED is placed in a building, building owners shall ensure that tenants annually receive a brochure, approved as to content and style by the American Heart

Association or American Red Cross, which describes the proper use of an AED, and also ensure that similar information is posted next to any installed AED.

(4) When an AED is placed in a building, no less than once a year, building owners shall notify their tenants as to the location of AED units in the building.

(5) When an AED is placed in a public or private K-12 school, the principal shall ensure that the school administrators and staff annually receive a brochure, approved as to content and style by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross, that describes the proper use of an AED. The principal shall also ensure that similar information is posted next to every AED. The principal shall, at least annually, notify school employees as to the location of all AED units on the campus. The principal shall designate the trained employees who shall be available to respond to an emergency that may involve the use of an AED during normal operating hours. As used in this paragraph, "normal operating hours" means during the hours of classroom instruction and any school-sponsored activity occurring on school grounds.

(c) Any person or entity that supplies an AED shall do all of the following:

(1) Notify an agent of the local EMS agency of the existence, location, and type of AED acquired.

(2) Provide to the acquirer of the AED all information governing the use, installation, operation, training, and maintenance of the AED.

(d) A violation of this provision is not subject to penalties pursuant to Section 1798.206.

(e) The protections specified in this section do not apply in the case of personal injury or wrongful death that results from the gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct of the person who renders emergency care or treatment by the use of an AED.

(f) Nothing in this section or Section 1714.21 of the Civil Code may be construed to require a building owner or a building manager to acquire and have installed an AED in any building.

Health and Safety Code Division 103

III. Section 104113.

(a) (1) Commencing July 1, 2007, every health studio, as defined in subdivision (g) shall acquire an automatic external defibrillator. The requirement to acquire an automatic external defibrillator pursuant to this subdivision shall terminate on July 1, 2012.

(2) Commencing July 1, 2007, and until July 1, 2012, every health studio, as defined in subdivision (g), shall maintain, and train personnel in the use of, any automatic external defibrillator acquired pursuant to paragraph (1).

(3) On or after July 1, 2012, a health studio that elects to continue the installation of an automatic external defibrillator that was acquired pursuant to paragraph (1) shall maintain and train personnel in the use of an automatic external defibrillator pursuant to this section, and shall not be liable for civil damages resulting from the use, attempted use, or nonuse of an automatic external defibrillator as provided by this section.

(b) An employee of a health studio who renders emergency care or treatment is not liable for civil damages resulting from the use, attempted use, or nonuse of an automatic external defibrillator, except as provided in subdivision (f).

(c) When an employee uses, does not use, or attempts to use, an automatic external defibrillator consistent with the requirements of this section to render emergency care or treatment, the members of the board of directors of the facility shall not be liable for civil damages resulting from any act or omission in rendering the emergency care or treatment, including the use or nonuse of an automatic external defibrillator, except as provided in subdivision (f).

(d) Except as provided in subdivision (f), when an employee of a health studio renders emergency care or treatment using an automatic external defibrillator, the owners, managers, employees, or otherwise responsible authorities of the facility shall not be liable for civil damages resulting from any act or omission in the course of rendering that emergency care or treatment, provided that the facility fully complies with subdivision (e).

(e) Notwithstanding Section 1797.196, in order to ensure public safety, a health studio shall do all of the following:

(1) Comply with all regulations governing the placement of an automatic external defibrillator.

(2) Ensure all of the following:

(A) The automatic external defibrillator is maintained and regularly tested according to the operation and maintenance guidelines set forth by the manufacturer, the American Heart Association, or the American Red Cross, and according to any applicable rules and regulations set forth by the governmental authority under the federal Food and Drug Administration and any other applicable state and federal authority.

(B) The automatic external defibrillator is checked for readiness after each use and at least once every 30 days if the automatic external defibrillator has not been used in the preceding 30 days. Records of these checks shall be maintained.

(C) Any person who renders emergency care or treatment on a person in cardiac arrest by using an automatic external defibrillator activates the emergency medical services system as soon as possible, and reports any use of the automatic external defibrillator to the licensed physician and to the local EMS agency.

(D) For every automatic external defibrillator unit acquired, up to five units, no less than one employee per automatic external defibrillator unit shall complete a training course in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automatic external defibrillator use that complies with the regulations adopted by the Emergency Medical Services Authority and the standards of the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross. After the first five automatic external defibrillator units are acquired, for each additional five automatic external defibrillator units acquired, a minimum of one employee shall be trained beginning with the first additional automatic external defibrillator unit acquired.

Acquirers of automatic external defibrillator units shall have trained employees who should be available to respond to an emergency that may involve the use of an automatic external defibrillator unit during normal operating hours. Acquirers of automatic external defibrillator units may need to train additional employees to assure that a trained employee is available at all times.

(E) There is a written plan that exists that describes the procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency that may involve the use of an automatic external defibrillator, to ensure compliance with the requirements of this section. The written plan shall include,

but not be limited to, immediate notification of 911 and trained office personnel at the start of automatic external defibrillator procedures.

(f) Subdivisions (b), (c), and (d) do not apply in the case of personal injury or wrongful death that results from gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct on the part of the person who uses, attempts to use, or maliciously fails to use an automatic external defibrillator to render emergency care or treatment.

(g) For purposes of this section, "health studio" means any facility permitting the use of its facilities and equipment or access to its facilities and equipment, to individuals or groups for physical exercise, body building, reducing, figure development, fitness training, or any other similar purpose, on a membership basis. "Health studio" does not include any hotel or similar business that offers fitness facilities to its registered guests for a fee or as part of the hotel charges.

**California Civil Code
Division 3**

III. Section 1714.2.

(a) In order to encourage citizens to participate in emergency medical services training programs and to render emergency medical services to fellow citizens, no person who has completed a basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation course which complies with the standards adopted by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and emergency cardiac care, and who, in good faith, renders emergency cardiopulmonary resuscitation at the scene of an emergency shall be liable for any civil damages as a result of any acts or omissions by such person rendering the emergency care.

(b) This section shall not be construed to grant immunity from civil damages to any person whose conduct in rendering such emergency care constitutes gross negligence.

(c) In order to encourage local agencies and other organizations to train citizens in cardiopulmonary resuscitation techniques, no local agency, entity of state or local government, or other public or private organization which sponsors, authorizes, supports, finances, or supervises the training of citizens in cardiopulmonary resuscitation shall be liable for any civil damages alleged to result from such training programs.

(d) In order to encourage qualified individuals to instruct citizens in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, no person who is certified to instruct in cardiopulmonary resuscitation by either the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross shall be liable for any civil damages alleged to result from the acts or omissions of an individual who received instruction on cardiopulmonary resuscitation by that certified instructor.

(e) This section shall not be construed to grant immunity from civil damages to any person who renders such emergency care to an individual with the expectation of receiving compensation from the individual for providing the emergency care.

Section 1714.21.

(a) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "AED" or "defibrillator" means an automated or automatic external defibrillator.

(2) "CPR" means cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

(b) Any person who, in good faith and not for compensation, renders emergency care or treatment by the use of an AED at the scene of an emergency is not liable for any civil damages resulting from any acts or omissions in rendering the emergency care.

(c) A person or entity who provides CPR and AED training to a person who renders emergency care pursuant to subdivision (b) is not liable for any civil damages resulting from any acts or omissions of the person rendering the emergency care.

(d) A person or entity that acquires an AED for emergency use pursuant to this section is not liable for any civil damages resulting from any acts or omissions in the rendering of the emergency care by use of an AED, if that person or entity has complied with subdivision (b) of Section 1797.196 of the Health and Safety Code.

(e) A physician who is involved with the placement of an AED and any person or entity responsible for the site where an AED is located is not liable for any civil damages resulting from any acts or omissions of a person who renders emergency care pursuant to subdivision (b), if that physician, person, or entity has complied with all of the requirements of Section 1797.196 of the Health and Safety Code that apply to that physician, person, or entity.

(f) The protections specified in this section do not apply in the case of personal injury or wrongful death that results from the gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct of the person who renders emergency care or treatment by the use of an AED.

(g) Nothing in this section shall relieve a manufacturer, designer, developer, distributor, installer, or supplier of an AED or defibrillator of any liability under any applicable statute or rule of law.